

**Abstract**

There is provided a system and method for programming bar code reading devices. A method in one embodiment includes encoding a bar code symbol, displaying a bar code symbol, and reading the displayed bar code symbol. A system and method in another embodiment includes a first bar code reading device configured to initiate a command to print a bar code symbol which when read by a second bar code reading device can cause the second bar code reading device to operate in the manner of the first bar code reading device. A bar code reading device in another embodiment includes reprogramming circuitry enabling the bar code reading device to be reprogrammed either by way of receipt of programming data over a radio frequency communication line or by way of processing memory stored image data.